

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06234 271119Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3132
INFO THE WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JIDDA 6234

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

DEPT FOR SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR AND BOVIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, US
SUBJ: FURTHER THOUGHTS ABOUT MIDDLE EAST PEACE: SAUDI ARABIA,
YAR AND CAMP DAVID

REF: (A) JIDDA 6233, (B) STATE 211406

1. WHILE MIDDLE EAST PEACE IS DESIRABLE, IT IS NOT HIGH PRIORITY IN SAUDI THINKING. IN FACT, AS WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING, THE SOVIET THREAT IS NOW THE OVERRIDING CONCERN IN SAUDI FOREIGN POLICY. ONE WAY TO KEEP THEIR SUPPORT FOR CAMP DAVID SUMMIT AND WHATEVER FLOWS THEREFROM IS TO REMIND THEM THAT USG IS THEIR BEST AND ONLY REAL PROTECTION FROM SOVIETS. WE BELIEVE THIS CAN BE DONE IN A SUBTLE, BUT EFFECTIVE WAY.

2. IF WE CAN WORK OUT A REASONABLY SATISFACTORY RESPONSE TO THE SAUDIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE TO YAR AND EMPHASIZE THAT SUCH IS THE RESULT OF USG'S RECOGNITION OF THE SOVIET THREAT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND OUR RESPONSE TO CONCERNS, WE WILL HAVE A MUCH EASIER TIME COPING WITH THE QUESTION POSED IN PARA FOUR OF REF A.

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3. VISIT OF CODEL SIKES/FLYNT (JIDDA 6143, 6144, SANA 4151) HAS UNQUESTIONABLY RAISED EXPECTATIONS OF EXTENT OF USG PARTICIPATION IN YAR AID. THEREFORE IT BECOMES DOUBLY IMPORTANT THAT THIS ISSUE BE DEALT WITH AS AFFIRMATIVELY AS POSSIBLE.

4. WE CONCUR THAT LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM SECRETARY TO FAHD PRIOR TO SUMMIT WOULD BE HELPFUL. RECOMMEND THAT TARGET DATE FOR DELIVERY BE SEPTEMBER 2, WHICH IS JUST BEFORE END OF RAMADAN AND BEGINNING OF EID HOLIDAY.

5. SUGGEST THAT LETTER INCLUDE IF POSSIBLE COMMITMENT FOR YOU OR ROY TO COME HERE IMMEDIATELY AFTER SUMMIT TO GIVE CROWN PRINCE FIRST HAND REPORT ON CAMP DAVID AND TO DISCUSS COOPERATION IN THE YAR.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WANT TO CONSIDER LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TO KING AS ALTERNATIVE TO FAHD LETTER. LETTER COULD BE IN RESPONSE TO KING'S LETTERS ON CAMP DAVID AND YEMEN (JIDDA 5691, JIDDA 6140). IF RESPONSE ON YAR ISSUE IS AT ALL FAVORABLE TO SAUDIS' REQUEST, THIS ROUTE WOULD IN OUR JUDGMENT BE BEST AVAILABLE.
WEST

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